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Bangalore Mirror

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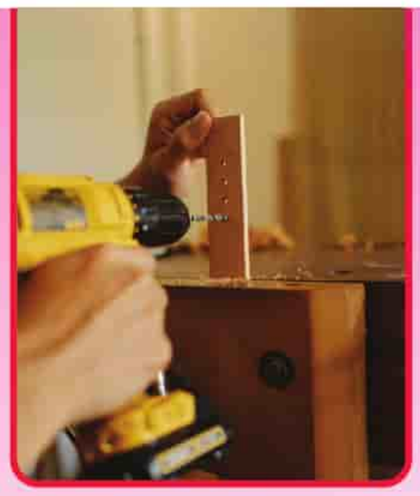

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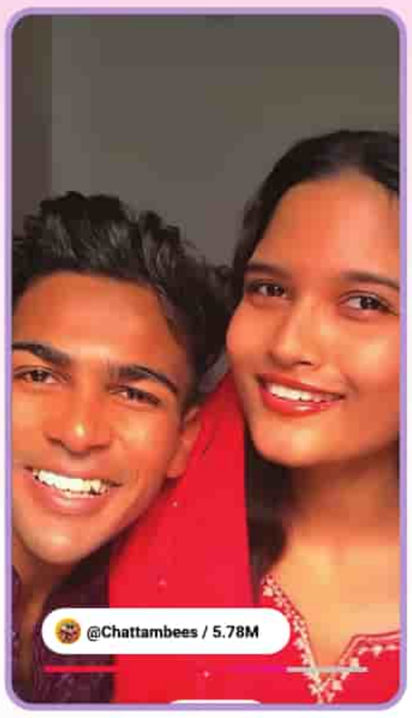

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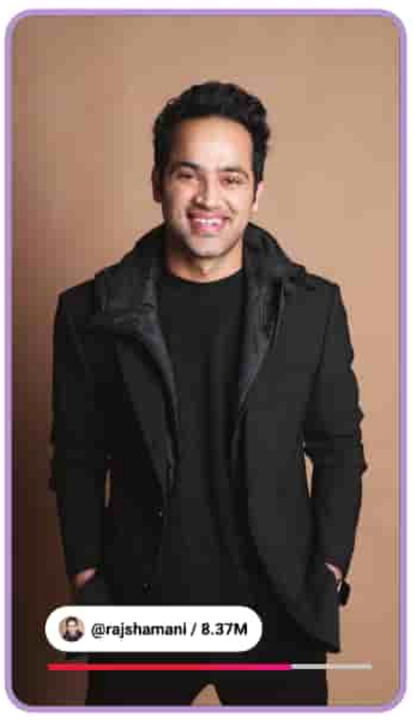

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BAD INVESTMENT

5,700 cases linked to investment scams in city last year; govt official who lost over Rs 2 crore is latest in string of victims

PAGE 3

NO WAY TO GO

As city's only pet crematorium at Sumanahalli remains shut, pet parents want BBMP to come up with alternatives soon

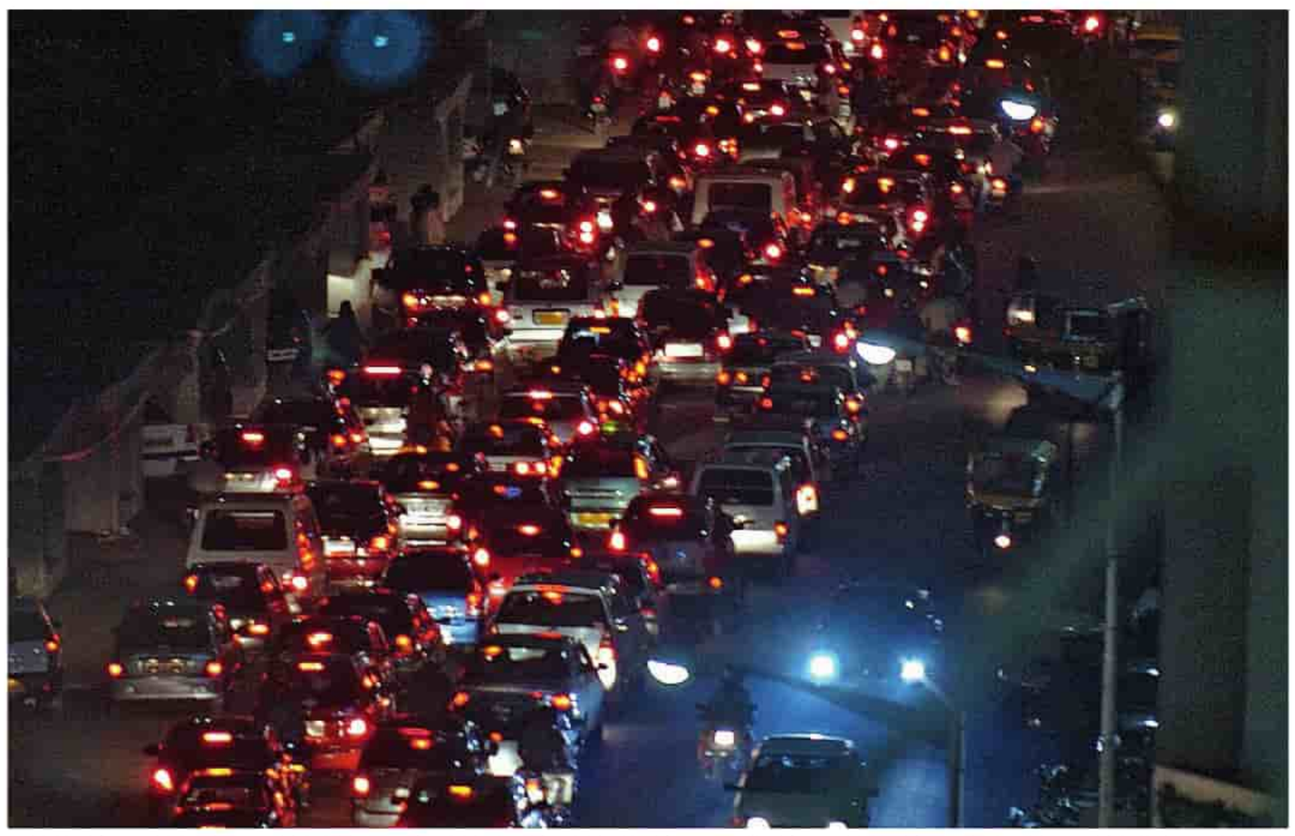
PAGE 4

Central Business District is turning out to be nightmare for commuters as insufficient infra makes traffic burst at its seams; peak-hour congestion that was limited to mornings and evenings now strikes at any odd hour

THE CENTRE CANNOT HOLD

Cacophony of projects takes over roads: Metro, white-topping work, drain and railway upgrades

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR



Busyness district pain points » Delay in infrastructure and development works » Poor road conditions & Rising number of vehicles » Zero-traffic protocols for VIP movements » Frequent political, religious events and processions » Protest rallies and demonstrations

Touted as India's IT capital, Bengaluru is facing a growing traffic nightmare, especially in the Central Business District (CBD)—the city's economic core. Commuters are trapped in a virtual gridlock of congestion, making it a daily challenge to navigate home through the clogged arteries of the CBD.

Once celebrated for its pleasant weather and investor-friendly environment, Bengaluru has evolved into a global business and IT hub. However, this rapid development has not been matched by proportional upgrades in urban infrastructure—especially in transportation, traffic management, and road maintenance. Sandeep Krishna, an activist said, "The surge in employment opportunities, real estate expansion, and educational institutions has led to a population boom. With it has come an explosion in the number of private vehicles. The result? A traffic system buckling under pressure. In the CBD, vehicle speeds rarely exceed 18 km/h, and in many areas, pedestrians move faster than vehicles."

Ongoing infrastructure projects across the city—particularly within the 30 sq. km stretch of the CBD—have further

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Tribunal heeds citizens' cry to save lake

NGT directs state pollution board to inspect Hennagara Lake and submit a report

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a major boost to environmental activism in Bengaluru, the southern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has acted upon an application filed by residents of Masthenahalli regarding pollution in Hennagara Lake located near Jigani Industrial area in south Bengaluru.

Based on a petition filed by residents and non-governmental organisations in the area, the NGT has directed the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to inspect the lake and submit a report.

"The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board is directed to conduct an inspection of the area referred to in the application and file a detailed report regarding the violation, the action taken, and the mitigation measures implemented. The other respondents are also directed to file their respective reports detailing the measures undertaken by them to protect the lake, particularly in light of the allegation that the surrounding industries are contributing to its pollution," the NGT has said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Carnatic carnival

Windmills is presenting 'A Carnatic Quartet', an evocative evening of classical music curated by renowned violinist Shreya Devnath, bringing together four exceptional artistes and two rare instrumental pairings that explore the vast sonic landscape of the Carnatic tradition. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: June 20 and 21, 9.30 pm**

02 Green thinking

The 5th edition of India Green Energy Expo is being held with the aim of serving as a comprehensive platform for stakeholders in the renewable energy ecosystem. This year's edition will highlight the critical role of renewable energy in accelerating electrification and supporting India's Net Zero targets. **Where: Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, Madavara; When: June 19 to 21, 10 am to 5.30 pm**

03 Soulful symphony

Vilen, the singer-songwriter from Delhi, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his soulful music. **Where: Ignite Super Club, HSR Layout; When: June 27, 7 pm**

04 Echoing legacy

'Remembering Dr HS Venkatesha Murthy', a conversation on Dr Murthy's literary contributions, is being organised as part of the Samskruti Sambhrama programme series. **Where: Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi; When: June 18, 6 pm to 8 pm**

05 Crafty affair

Charaka Womens' Co-operative Society in association with Desi Trust is organising 'Natural Tie-Dye' workshop, providing an introduction to the art of natural dyeing. **Where: Samagata Foundation, Church Street; When: June 20, 2 pm to 3 pm**

Environmental and climate clubs mandatory in schools

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday announced that it is now mandatory for every school in the state to establish environmental and climate awareness clubs to sensitise students about climate change and nature conservation. "A minimum of 25 students must be part of each awareness club. The aim is to instil consciousness about nature and the need for conservation amongst students. Each school must adopt a designated area for tree planting and green development," he said. The Deputy CM also noted that each student will be encouraged to adopt and nurture a sapling. "Over 50,000 children are already part of this initiative. Just two days ago, I was in Delhi and Ahmedabad where temperatures were nearing 49°C, whereas Bengaluru maintains a pleasant 22-23°C. This favourable climate is the wealth of our land," he said. **— BMB**

'This isn't side income, this is how we pay rent, school fees'

Bike taxi association writes to MLA, highlights riders, including daily-wage earners, and students are facing severe financial hardship due to sudden ban

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

On Monday, following the state government's decision, the Regional Transport Office (RTO) seized many bike taxis

After nearly 1,00,000 bike taxi riders lost their jobs when the state government informed the Karnataka High Court that it has made a policy decision not to formulate any rules or guidelines permitting bike taxi services through transport technology platforms, the Bike Taxi Association, on June 16, wrote a letter to MLA Ravi Subramanya pleading for an intervention to save their livelihoods.

In the letter, around 70 bike taxi riders sought urgent relief after the Karnataka High Court recently declined to extend legal protection to bike taxi services. The court's ruling has allowed the government's ban to come into full effect, leading to the expiry of drivers' permits at midnight on June 15, making them liable for penalties since June 16. The drivers also highlighted that over 100 challans have been issued and various instances of harassment by auto union members have been reported.

Anil Kumar, Vice President of the Bike Taxi Association, urged the government to introduce a clear policy for bike taxis. "While food delivery aggregators operate without a proper policy and often flout traffic rules without consequences, they haven't been banned. On the other hand, bike taxi riders who follow regulations and raise concerns are being denied policy support. This is unfair," said Kumar.

On Monday, the Regional Transport Office (RTO) seized over 100 bike taxis, and 15 were from Rajajinagar alone. Around the same time last year, on July 5, the Karnataka Transport Department had seized 133 bike taxis, including 29 operating within Bengaluru city, following protests by auto driver unions demanding a ban on bike taxi services.

According to Section 66 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, transport vehicles used for commercial purposes require a valid permit. This includes vehicles used to carry goods or passengers for hire. While 20cc vehicles may be exempted if used privately, they must be classified as transport vehicles, and require permits if used for commercial activities like deliveries or passenger transport. Adinarayana, President of the Bike Taxi Association, stated, "When we met the minister, he responded positively. We informed him that while other states have policies in place, Karnataka still lacks one. The minister asked us to submit a draft policy within 10 days, which we have already done."

> **"We're part of the same informal economy that Karnataka claims to support. Why are we being shut out without a conversation?**
> – Mohammed Salim, President, Namma Bike Taxi Association

The letter also highlighted that many drivers, including daily-wage earners, delivery agents, and students—are facing severe financial hardship due to the sudden ban. "This isn't just side income, this is how we pay rent and school fees," one driver stated. The group urged the MLA to push the state government to consider regulated operations rather than enforcing a complete ban.

In a tweet, MP PC Mohan criticised aggregators for continuing to operate bike taxis under the guise of 'bike parcel' services. He opined that citizens are being reduced to mere parcels in a bid to evade the law. "The Karnataka government has failed to enforce the law. Are aggregators above the law?" he said. He further emphasised, "This is not about supporting or opposing bike taxis—it's about upholding the rule of law. No aggregator can defy Karnataka High Court orders by disguising bike taxi operations as 'bike parcel' or moto courier services. This isn't innovation; it's contempt of court and a direct challenge to judicial authority."

Tanveer Pasha, President of the Ola Uber Drivers and Owners Association and the Karnataka State Auto & Taxi Federation, pointed out that certain aggregators continue to run bike taxi services even after the court's directive. Calling it a clear case of contempt of court, he urged the authorities to take strict action against those violating the law.

The drivers demanded clear rules on licensing, insurance, and safety rather than being criminalised overnight. "We're part of the same informal economy that Karnataka claims to support. Why are we being shut out without a conversation?" asked Mohammed Salim, President of the Namma Bike Taxi Association.

Bike taxis had emerged as a cost efficient and flexible commuting option, especially with delayed metro projects and limited bus connectivity forcing people into gridlock. Following the verdict, social media saw a surge of criticism. Former Infosys CFO TV Mohandas Pai, on X, urged the government to reverse the decision, calling bike taxis essential for employment and easing traffic. Many echoed his view, stating bike taxis help students and gig workers and should be legalised with proper regulation.

KEA flags exploitation by private universities, seeks Higher Education Council intervention

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has raised serious concerns over private universities charging students fees far beyond the government-mandated limits. In a formal letter to the State Higher Education Council, KEA has urged immediate intervention to curb the collection of excess fees and protect students from financial exploitation.

According to KEA, private universities are violating fee regulations despite a clear fee structure set by the government. While KEA fills 40% of the seats through its counselling process, the remaining 60% are filled by universities under management quotas or based on national-level entrance exams. However, complaints have poured in from students and parents that even seats allotted by KEA are being subjected to additional charges ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh, well above the approved fee ceiling.

KEA has pointed out that this practice is disproportionately affecting students from economically weaker and rural backgrounds, who are already struggling to afford higher education. The government mandates that private institutions charge only the approved fees, but many universities are flouting this rule with impunity. In its letter, KEA has also reminded the Higher Education Council that every year the state government enters into a formal agreement with private colleges and universities to fix annual fee structures.

KEA has now recommended that a clause be added to these agreements explicitly prohibiting the collection of any extra charges beyond what is approved. **— BMB**

Fraud investment group targets govt official

Official loses over ₹2.5 crore to scam run through WhatsApp group; fraud involves bogus app, multiple bank accounts, and fake profit updates

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A government official from Bengaluru lost over ₹2.53 crore to an online investment scam run through a WhatsApp group. The complaint, filed at the CEN Police Station, Central Division, reveals that the victim, Deva (name changed), was added to a WhatsApp group named "Abbott Wealth Management" by a user identified only as "vip777". The group claimed it was registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and lured him with promises of high returns.

The accused used multiple mobile numbers to appear legitimate and guided the victim to download an app named 'ABBOTT', which was used to show fake transactions and profit updates. Over a period of two months, between April 4 and June 2, the complainant transferred a total of ₹2.53 crore into various private bank accounts, believing it to be a genuine investment. When no profit or capital return was received, and the group suddenly became inactive, the victim realised he had been cheated and approached the police on June 12.

Despite campaign, people still get lured

The incident underscores a troubling reality: even educated and financially literate individuals are not immune to online fraud, especially when scammers lure them with promises of high returns and use fake credentials to appear legitimate.

Data from the Bengaluru cybercrime wing paints an alarming picture. Between January and November 2024, the city reported losses of ₹1,806 crore to cybercrimes, with over 5,700 cases linked to investment scams. These scams often follow the same pattern: WhatsApp groups, cloned websites or apps, and bogus SEBI approvals. By March, the situation had worsened, with Bengaluru alone recording cyber fraud losses amounting to ₹19,872.67 crore, of which only around 10 per cent has been recovered so far.

> **Between Jan and Nov 2024, B'luru reported cybercrime losses of ₹1,806 crore, with over 5,700 investment scam cases**

What's also raising eyebrows is how a government official managed to invest more than ₹2 crore in just two months. While there's no official clarification yet, sources suggest the funds may have come from personal savings, inheritance, or possibly pooled contributions from others.

45% spike in app-based scams

Officials said the fraud was executed through a well-organised network using multiple mobile numbers and bank accounts spread across various financial institutions. Over the past year, app-based scams have surged by 45%, with most originating from WhatsApp groups and operating through apps that mimic legitimate investment platforms.

The CEN Police have registered a case and confirmed that the investigation is in progress. According to officials, the modus operandi seen in this case is common to many investment scams reported across the state. As part of the ongoing probe, letters have been sent to intermediary companies and other parties linked to the transactions. Police say they are following the standard operating procedure (SOP) and are moving forward with the investigation accordingly.

Drug crackdown widens net

The Narcotics Control Unit of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested a foreign national drug peddler who was active in the drug mafia since 2013 and was residing in K Dommasandra village under the jurisdiction of Avalahalli police station for allegedly peddling banned substances. Acting on intelligence received on June 12, officers raided the premises and seized 600 grams of white MDMA crystals, an illegal synthetic drug valued at ₹1.2 crore.

The accused was found allegedly selling the narcotic in the local market at inflated prices after procuring it cheaply from unidentified individuals. He was remanded in police custody for three days and later produced before the court on June 16, which ordered judicial custody.

"Within just three to four days, this one case led to the seizure of 600 grams of MDMA crystals, which hold significant value in the international market. We have also recovered mobile phones, and based on that evidence, police officials are continuing the investigation," said Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, Seemant Kumar Singh, during the press meet on Tuesday.

In a related operation, the police officials of the Narcotics Control Unit of the CCB apprehended two foreign nationals who had been absconding in connection with a case registered at the DJ Halli Police Station. Additionally, three other absconding foreign nationals were traced and handed over to the respective police stations for further legal proceedings.

Churidar drug bust

A foreign woman named Princess was arrested near Rajankunte by the CCB and Chikkajala police for smuggling drugs worth ₹10 crore. She had concealed 5.3 kg of MDMA inside 11 churidar pieces. Initially, in India, on a business visa, she later acquired an education visa but never enrolled in college. She transported the drugs from Delhi to Bengaluru by bus. A case has been registered at Chikkajala Police Station, and further investigation is underway. —BMB

Cops monitor digital misuse

During the Press meet held on Tuesday Commissioner explained that on June 16, a crucial meeting of Social Media Monitoring Cell officers and staff from all police stations under the jurisdiction of the Bangalore City Police Commissionerate was held at the Commissioner's Office. The session focused on strengthening coordination and enhancing vigilance against the misuse of social media platforms.

During the meeting, advisory instructions were issued to all personnel. Officers were directed to work in close coordination with Crime Branch teams and station-level intelligence officers to collect relevant information and submit timely reports to higher authorities.

Officials emphasised that strict legal action would be taken in the coming days against individuals indulging in unlawful activities through social media. This includes the spread of fake news, hate speech, and content inciting communal tensions or public unrest. —BMB

Three arrested in burglary

The Chennammanakere Achukattu police have cracked a major house burglary case with the arrest of three individuals and the recovery of stolen property worth ₹25 lakh, including gold, silver, and cash.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh stated, "Valuables worth around ₹37 lakh, including cash, gold, and silver, were stolen. Of this, we have recovered ₹25 lakh. Three suspects have been arrested, while a fourth is absconding, though we have identified him and will apprehend him soon. The investigation is ongoing. We are also examining the suspects' past criminal records and patterns of repeat offences, and planning steps are being taken to curb such habitual crimes."

The complainant, a resident of Katriguppe in Banashankari 3rd Phase, filed a report on May 23 after discovering that his house had been burgled. He and his wife had gone to Chikkamagaluru on May 21, and upon their return, their child found the cupboard ransacked. A total of ₹24 lakh cash, 175 grams of gold ornaments, and 1.5 kg of silver were reported stolen.

Police nabbed two suspects on May 28 from Ring Road and seized ₹4 lakh cash, gold, silver, two iron rods, and a two-wheeler. —BMB

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Achieved 73rd rank in South India B-Schools. - BUSINESSWORLD RANKING (2024)
Received Best Campus Award for campus recruitment. - ACUITY KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS (2024)
Recognized with the Brilliance Badge B-School Diamond Band and a Grade A+ rating for academic excellence. - INDIA'S FINEST B-SCHOOL RANKING (2024)
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8 LPA Average CTC
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Pet parents struggle as crematorium stays shut

Civic body promises multiple units and a mobile facility after facing backlash over shutdown of Bengaluru's lone functional pet crematorium

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru has 8 human crematoria with 16 chimneys — but only one dedicated to animals

With no signs of restoring pet crematorium at Sumanahalli in the near future, pet parents and animal activists are finding it tough to find a suitable place for decent cremation to their deceased dogs. The one and only pet crematorium at Sumanahalli for the entire Bengaluru, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 2.35 crore, has been shut for more than two months and the BBMP is expected to take a few more months to restart the crematorium.

Bangalore Mirror published a story - Bengaluru's only pet crematorium out of service for weeks - on April 28 narrating how the BBMP has ignored Sumanahalli crematorium's rusted chimney. Animal activists and rescuers have been demanding the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Animal Husbandry Department not only to restore the pet crematorium at Sumanahalli but also construct more pet crematoria at strategic locations.

Sujaya Jagadish, a member of the SPCA, said Bengaluru is facing a pressing crisis in animal welfare due to the lack of a functional animal crematorium. "The Sumanahalli crematorium, the only animal crematorium for animals in the whole of Bengaluru which is expanding by the day into other districts, which serves as a vital facility for dignified disposal of animal carcasses, has been non-operational for months. This has forced pet parents and NGOs to resort to unhygienic burial practices. This situation not only poses significant health risks for humans and otherwise, it also raises concerns about animal welfare in the city," said Jagadish.

She said what is equally concerning is the lack of accountability within the BBMP, where instead of working collaboratively as a team, responsibilities are being passed on to the Joint Commissioner Projects. "This finger-pointing approach hinders effective problem-solving and exacerbates the crisis. Immediate action is needed to restore the crematorium or provide alternative, sanitary facilities, and for BBMP to adopt a more cohesive and responsible approach to addressing animal welfare issues," she said.

She said the AWBI advocates for the establishment of animal crematoriums and incinerators in each district to ensure proper and environmentally acceptable disposal of animal carcasses, including those of street and pet animals. "Let us not wait for a disease breakout leading to epidemic proportions," she said.

Wondering why animals are deprived of alternative solution for non-functional pet crematorium, Swayambhu Soham, animal rescuer, Bannerghatta Road and around Hulimavu, said the BBMP electric crematorium is right adjacent to the pet crematorium with 2 chimneys. "Either the BBMP can dedicate that for animals for time being or in any other human electric crematorium.

> **"This situation not only poses significant health risks for humans and otherwise, it also raises concerns about animal welfare in the city** – Sujaya Jagadish, SPCA member

There are 8 for humans and 16 chimneys in total and none for pets as on date. With an average animal carcass of 25 per day, why is the BBMP not considering the suggestion?" asks Swayambhu Soham.

BBMP plans 19 crematoria

BBMP Special Commissioner (Health & Animal Husbandry) Vikas Suralkar Kishor, said the BBMP plans to construct 19 crematoria for small and big animals at different locations in the city. The BBMP is expected to spend Rs 8 crore for the construction of crematoria and Rs 25,00,000 for a mobile crematorium for pets and animals. "Tender will be floated soon. Most of the proposed crematoria will be constructed adjacent to human crematoria in the city," the Special Commissioner said.

Government orders tree space, targets plastic waste

Finally, the Karnataka Government has issued two landmark directives aimed at improving urban environmental health — one focusing on the de-concretisation of tree bases and the other targeting the management of plastic bottle waste.

Clearing the concrete chokehold

The state has mandated the immediate removal of all concrete, stone, and cement blocks laid around trees in urban areas. This action follows a directive from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi, and is intended to curb the alarming trend of roadside trees collapsing due to shallow root systems. Urban trees, often hemmed in by interlocking tiles or tarred pavements, have little to no access to air and water. This impairs their root development, weakens structural stability, and raises the risk of trees falling during storms — causing fatalities and damage to property.

Citing NGT's directive in Original Application No. 363/2022, the government emphasised the need for a minimum of one metre of open, unpaved space around every tree. Even on narrower roads, authorities must ensure at least one square metre of soil is left exposed. This breathing space not only facilitates natural percolation of rainwater but also ensures oxygen flow to the roots, essential for a tree's health and longevity. Environmental experts have long criticised the concretisation trend, pointing out that it turns tree pits into "death traps" for urban greenery. The state's latest move signals a policy shift prioritising sustainable urban development over mere aesthetic hardscaping.

The Departments of forest, urban development, and municipal administration have been instructed to begin immediate implementation and incorporate these guidelines into all future road, pavement, and tree-planting projects. Contractors and civic planners are now bound to adhere to ecological safeguards outlined by the NGT.

PET bottle menace under the radar

In a parallel development, the government has also addressed the growing concern around plastic pollution, especially from single-use PET water bottles. Acting on a proposal from Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre, the state has ordered the formation of district-level plastic waste monitoring committees, headed by Deputy Commissioners.

These committees, comprising officials from Zilla Panchayats, the police, food and civil supplies, and the Pollution Control Board, will monitor the production, sale, and usage of PET bottles and work towards their scientific disposal.

A quarterly review mechanism has been introduced to ensure that progress is tracked, and public awareness campaigns are also expected to be part of the initiative. The move aims to tackle the growing plastic burden in both rural and urban areas, aligning with national objectives for phasing out single-use plastics. **— BMB**

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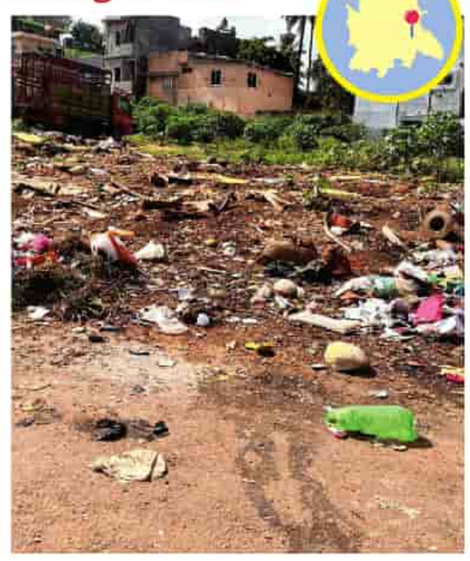
Road neglect

Kannamangala

Despite being in good condition, Kannamangala Main Road was dug up for widening. Three months later, the work remains incomplete, leaving potholes and an uneven surface.

Trash trouble

Lottegollahalli



The road leading to the Devinagar bus stop in Lottegollahalli, used daily by schoolchildren and commuters, is riddled with potholes and garbage, posing serious health and safety risks.

Pothole peril

Koyella Layout

For over a month, residents of Koyella Layout in Lingajapuram, have been struggling with badly damaged roads, leading to daily inconvenience and serious safety concerns.

Stampede arrests temporarily halted

The Karnataka High Court issued a directive on Tuesday, preventing Bengaluru police from arresting or taking coercive action against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) officials and DNA Event Management Company in connection with the June 4 Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede.

Justice SR Krishna Kumar recorded the Special Public Prosecutor's (SPP) submission that police would not pursue two additional FIRs—Crime Nos. 124/2025 and 125/2025—as they were identical to the FIR being investigated by the CID. The court instructed petitioners to cooperate with the ongoing probe, with the arrangement in place until the next hearing on July 8.The petitions were filed by Royal Challengers Sports Pvt. Ltd. (RCSPL), RCB's parent company, and DNA, which organised the IPL victory celebrations that drew an estimated five lakh people to a stadium designed for 33,000. The stampede resulted in 11 deaths and 56 injuries.

Accusations of negligence were levelled at both the event organisers and State authorities. The High Court has also initiated a suo motu case, with the next hearing on June 23. —BMB

SC slams film ban in Karnataka

The Supreme Court addressed the Public Interest Litigation filed by Kamal Haasan challenging the ban on his film Thug Life in Karnataka, which stemmed from his comments regarding Kannada's origins in Tamil. The apex court criticised the Karnataka High Court for demanding an apology from Haasan, stating, "We cannot allow a mob or vigilante to take over the streets. The film Thug Life must be released in Karnataka." Transferring the case to itself, the Court granted the Karnataka government 24 hours to clarify the film's release status, underscoring the need to uphold the rule of law. The Court also observed that while public debate around the actor's remarks was acceptable, curbing the film's release was unjustified.The case was heard alongside a PIL filed by Mahesh Reddy seeking the film's theatrical release. The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce had earlier announced a boycott following threats from fringe groups protesting Haasan's remarks.Thug Life marks Haasan's reunion with director Mani Ratnam after 1987's Nayakan. —BMB

HC upholds CEO fraud case

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash criminal proceedings against 76-year-old Surya Sareen, President and CEO of US-based M/s AKON Inc, in a case involving alleged fraud against DARE and DRDO. The charges relate to the delivery of defective VO-based radio frequency engines. Justice M Nagaprasanna stated that the case presents a prima facie offence under IPC Sections 420 and 120B, and the court would not interfere at this stage.

CBI investigations revealed that M/s AKON allegedly supplied non-functional equipment through a global tender. Sareen's defence argued lack of specific allegations, delay in proceedings, and that he could not be held individually liable. However, the court said Sareen's involvement was evident through witness statements and email records, noting he was the independent owner and beneficiary of M/s AKON.

Rejecting arguments on delay and lack of sanction, the court concluded the prosecution's case was valid and well-documented. —BMB

BMRCL begins third rail tests on pink metro line

BMRCL kickstarts critical electrification tests as the Pink Line nears phased launch; coach delivery timeline remains key to progress

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

BEML to supply 138 coaches; delivery critical for meeting BMRCL's mid-2026 deadline

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has begun 'third rail' testing — a critical electrification trial that powers locomotives — on the elevated section of the upcoming Pink Line between Jayadeva and Tavarekere metro stations. This marks the first in a series of mandatory tests before the corridor, stretching from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara, becomes operational. Currently, the testing is limited to the elevated portion. As part of its safety protocol, BMRCL has issued a public advisory warning against unauthorized access to the viaduct areas during this phase.

According to a BMRCL official, after the third rail testing is completed, the next stages will involve signal system validation, telecommunication trials, and loading tests. These technical assessments are projected to take approximately four months. Once concluded, safety inspection reports will be submitted to the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS). The CRS will provide the final nod for commercial operations only after a thorough review of the reports.

Phased launch planned for 21.2-Km corridor

The 21.2-km Pink Line is being launched in two phases. Phase one covers a 7.5-km elevated stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere and includes six stations: Kalena Agrahara, Hulimavu, IIMB, JP Nagar 4th Phase, Jayadeva Hospital, and Tavarekere. The second phase consists of a 13.76-km underground corridor from Dairy Circle to Nagawara, featuring 12 stations. This phase is expected to be commissioned later.

BEML to supply 138 coaches for pink line

Civil works on the elevated section are complete, while nearly 90% of the underground section is done. However, the timely start of operations depends significantly on the availability of coaches — a factor that previously delayed the Yellow Line's launch.

To address this, BMRCL has signed a contract with BEML for the supply of 138 coaches, which will be configured into 23 six-car trains. Each coach is priced at 9.99 crore, including 7.74 crore for manufacturing and 1.3 crore for 15 years of maintenance.

Though BMRCL is aiming to launch the elevated stretch by mid-2026, the target will hinge on the punctual delivery and integration of the new rolling stock.

Metro ridership climbs despite fare hike

Despite a recent hike in metro fares, Namma Metro continues to see a steady rise in ridership. While February 2025 saw a dip to 2.09 crore passengers from 2.5 crore in January, the numbers have since rebounded. In March, ridership rose to 2.24 crore and climbed further to 2.28 crore in April. A new single-day record was set on April 17, when over 9.08 lakh people used the metro — the highest ever. Of these, the Purple Line saw 4,35,516 commuters and the Green Line 2,85,240.

> **"Third rail testing will be followed by signal system, telecommunication trials, and loading tests, taking four months, then CRS clearance** —BMRCL official

A BMRCL official said, "The figures suggest that despite the fare revision, Namma Metro remains a preferred and reliable mode of transport for Bengaluru's daily commuters." The consistent rise in passenger numbers highlights growing public confidence in metro connectivity across the city.

IN BRIEF

City faces 24-hour water shutdown tomorrow

Bengaluru will face a complete disruption in Cauvery water supply for 24 hours—from 6 am on Thursday, June 19, to 6 am on Friday, June 20—owing to emergency maintenance work under the Cauvery Stage V project. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has urged residents to store sufficient water in advance for essential use.

The shutdown is necessary to integrate a new 3,000 mm diameter pipeline at TK Halli. Simultaneously, annual maintenance and emergency electrical repairs are scheduled at Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) units.

BWSSB to halt all Cauvery stages, residents urged to store and use water wisely. —BMB

CCB raids jail, seizes contraband items

In a surprise operation conducted on Monday, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) officers and staff raided the Central Jail at Parappana Agrahara and carried out searches in various prisoner barracks.

During the raid, officials recovered illegal items including bidis, cigarettes, banned tobacco products like Chinese and Swagat Gold, pipes suspected to be used for smoking ganja, sharp knives, and improvised weapons. Two inmates were also found to be in possession of Rs 16,180 in cash. Authorities said the raid was part of a broader crackdown on the smuggling of contraband and aimed at tightening prison security. —BMB

Factory worker assaulted with compressed air

In a shocking incident at the Stove Craft factory in Harohalli industrial area, a worker was seriously injured after a colleague allegedly inserted compressed air into his rectum following a minor argument.

The accused, identified as Govinda, has been booked and taken into police custody after a complaint was lodged at the Harohalli Police Station.

The victim, Paramesh, a native of Hassan and a 17-year employee at the unit, was reportedly attacked while bathing after his shift. Police have launched a full investigation into the matter. —BMB

Traffic system in CBD is buckling under pressure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worsened the situation. Metro construction, white-topping, stormwater drains, culverts, overpasses, underground sewer lines, and railway junction upgrades are all under progress, many without clear deadlines. These delays have caused daily gridlocks, leaving commuters frustrated.

Round-the-clock problem

Traffic police officials say that once upon a time, peak-hour congestion was limited to mornings (5.30 am–10 am) and evenings (5.30 pm–8 pm). Outside these hours, movement across the city was relatively smooth. Today, however, congestion can strike at any time, and reaching a destination often takes far longer than expected—especially in the CBD.

Bengaluru over takes Delhi in private car ownership

In the last decade, the number of two-wheelers and cars in Bengaluru has doubled. The city now has 25.10 lakh cars—more than even Delhi. Yet, there hasn't been a proportional increase in BMTC buses or expansion of public transport systems. This gap has forced a vast majority of residents to rely on private vehicles.

"While around 45% of Delhi's population uses private vehicles, Bengaluru is close behind at 42%. Despite Delhi having more total vehicles, it suffers less congestion due to a more robust and widely used public transport network. Mumbai, with even more vehicles and a larger geographic area, also reports less traffic pressure due to its high public transport usage," said an official. In contrast, Bengaluru's metro and BMTC systems haven't yet succeeded in attracting the majority of daily commuters. Until they do, the city's traffic woes are unlikely to improve.

Vehicle density

Post-covid, Bengaluru has witnessed an unprecedented spike in vehicle registrations. On average, 2,300 new vehicles hit the road every day. The city's total registered vehicle count has now crossed 1.25 crore, with 72% being two-wheelers. In 2003, there were 400 vehicles per 1,000 people. As of now, this figure has jumped to 848 vehicles per 1,000 residents. In comparison, Delhi stands at 320 vehicles per 1,000, and Mumbai at just 220—highlighting the alarming scale of private vehicle dependence in Bengaluru. Without urgent investments in mass transit, strict traffic discipline, and faster completion of civic works, Bengaluru's dream of becoming a global city may remain mired in gridlock.

Citizens' application prompts action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The other respondents include the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board, the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority, and the Minor Irrigation Department.

The petition was filed by VrikshaMitra Foundation, Jal Thal Foundation, along with the residents, citing alarming degradation of Hennagara Lake caused by unchecked industrial effluents and sewage discharges from Jigani Industrial Area.

Locals and NGOs say the lake water has turned black, emits a foul odour, and has caused health hazards, fish deaths, and water insecurity in the surrounding villages.

"The water body is also claimed to be subjected to severe pollution due to direct and indirect discharge of toxic industrial effluents, untreated sewage, and storm drain run-off from Jigani and surrounding areas. Locals say the lake is a critical recharge zone supporting groundwater aquifers across Anekal, Hebbagodi, and Chandapura.

However, rapid industrialisation, encroachment, and unregulated pollution have led to severe ecological stress, leading to the destruction of aquatic life, loss of biodiversity, and water contamination," said Tushar Chandra, a resident of the area and founder of VrikshaMitra Foundation.

Toxic bloom threat

The application filed with NGT, a copy of which is with BM, also underlines that high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in the lake have created conditions conducive to toxic algal blooms, which can release harmful toxins, affecting both air and water quality. During monsoon overflow, the contaminated lake water risks spreading hazardous waste into surrounding fields and residential areas, potentially triggering a public health disaster.

All these aspects indicate violation of the statutory provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, the Environment (Protection) Act, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules.

Locals also raise concerns about farmers in the area using the lake water for irrigation. They say this raises the risk of poisoning crops with heavy metals, which could enter the food chain, leading to long-term health crises.

The application was made to NGT based on a water quality analysis report prepared by CDD India for VrikshaMitra Foundation, which revealed dangerously low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels at 1.48 mg/L, classifying the lake as Class E, as per standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

"The unchecked pollution of Hennagara and the resultant contamination of drinking water sources directly violate the fundamental rights of residents. We have requested NGT for an immediate environmental audit of the Lake and drain inflows, the lake's upstream, and the groundwater table around the lake.

We have also urged for identification and prosecution of polluting industries under Section 15 of the NGT Act, 2010, and the Environment (Protection) Act, among other demands," added Chandra.

The NGOs and residents that have submitted the application have also called for environmental compensation from the industries, apart from directions to concerned authorities, including local bodies, to fence the lake, provide a sewage treatment plant, and carry out buffer zone demarcation.

They have also demanded the appointment of a monitoring committee under NGT oversight, similar to the one for Chandapura Lake.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Kavita D/O, Devindrappa R/o W/o Ravi Kolur Ffl Msr Neepa Apartment 34,35 Vinaya Marga Beml 3rd Stage Rajarajeshwari Nagar 560098 have changed my name to Kavita D Yaragal.

I, Vijayanarayan @ Vijaya Narayan G, S/o Late. Ganapa thy Chettiar N, resident of No. 33/3, 4th Main, Srikanteshwara Nagar, Vivekananda Womens College, Mahalakshmi Layout, Nandini Layout-560096, have changed my name to VIJAYANARAYANAN G, vide affidavit dt: 17.06.2025 sworn before notary Renuka C, B.lore.

I Aneesh Krishna Hassan Somakrishna S/O, Soma Krishna Ananda Hassan Ramanna R/o No 2432 G Floor, 10th Main E Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru - 560010, Karnataka, india have changed my name to Aneesh Krishna Hassan Soma Krishna Ananda.

I, CHETAN, Residing at No 188, Balaji Apartments, Flat No 001, C J Venkat Das Road, Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore-560070, Have changed my minor Son name DHRUPAD C to DHRUPAD C GOWDA vide affidavit dated 17/06/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I Pawandeep Kaur Chauhan R/o # A-217, Vars Parkwood, Bellandur-Doddakanneli road, Bellandur Bangalore-560035, have changed my name to Pawandeep Kaur.

I KIRAN KUMAR HEGDE, S/o, Heggunje Bhujanga Hegde, Residing at, No 21, Kantha Nivas, 1st Floor, Muddappa Road, Maruthi Seva Nagar, Bengaluru 560033, have changed my name to KIRAN HEGDE for all purposes.

I, Umakant s/o Shantaram Joshi R/o Flat.2040, Roshan Gardenia Apt, 36th main, Poornaparagna Lyt, uttarahalli Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Umakanth Joshi Affidavit Dt.17/06/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Jayanthi Rajashekar Jogi, W/o Rajashekar Kandlur Narasimha Jogi, R/o No 12 Shop Street ,Basavanagudi, B'luru-560004 have changed my name to Jayanthi Rajashekar for all purposes.

I, Shivaprasad Patil R/o Plot.2, Ward.45, Basava colony, Belagavi 590010 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Shivaprasad M Patil Affidavit Dt.17/06/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Krishna Veni A, W/O Mysuru Nagaraj Prasad, R/o No 81/C 5th Main 18th Cross , Malleshwaram, B'luru, 560055 have changed my name to Krishna Veni for all purposes.

I Sumit Bansal S/O, Ashok Kumar Bansal R/o Vaishnavi Ars Gardenia Sm Road Peenya Bangalore. 57. Door No C Block604. have changed my name to Sumit Kumar Bansal.

LOST & FOUND

LOST my ICSE pass certificate class 10 year 2012 of The Frank Anthony Public School , name : V N Shalini D/O S R Nagaraj It was lost around Bangalore on 13-03-2025.If found/seen please contact: 9398312793

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JUN: 30* JUL: 21*, AUG: 10, 18* 24, SEPT: 7, 8*, 14, 15*, 22*, 29*
NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN 4 DAYS: JUN: 30, JUL: 14, 28 AUG: 11, 25
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HEALTH TIP: Eggs are a protein powerhouse that promote satiety, preserve muscle during weight loss, and help curb cravings

Oats are low in calories and rich in fibres, so it helps to keep you full for a longer time

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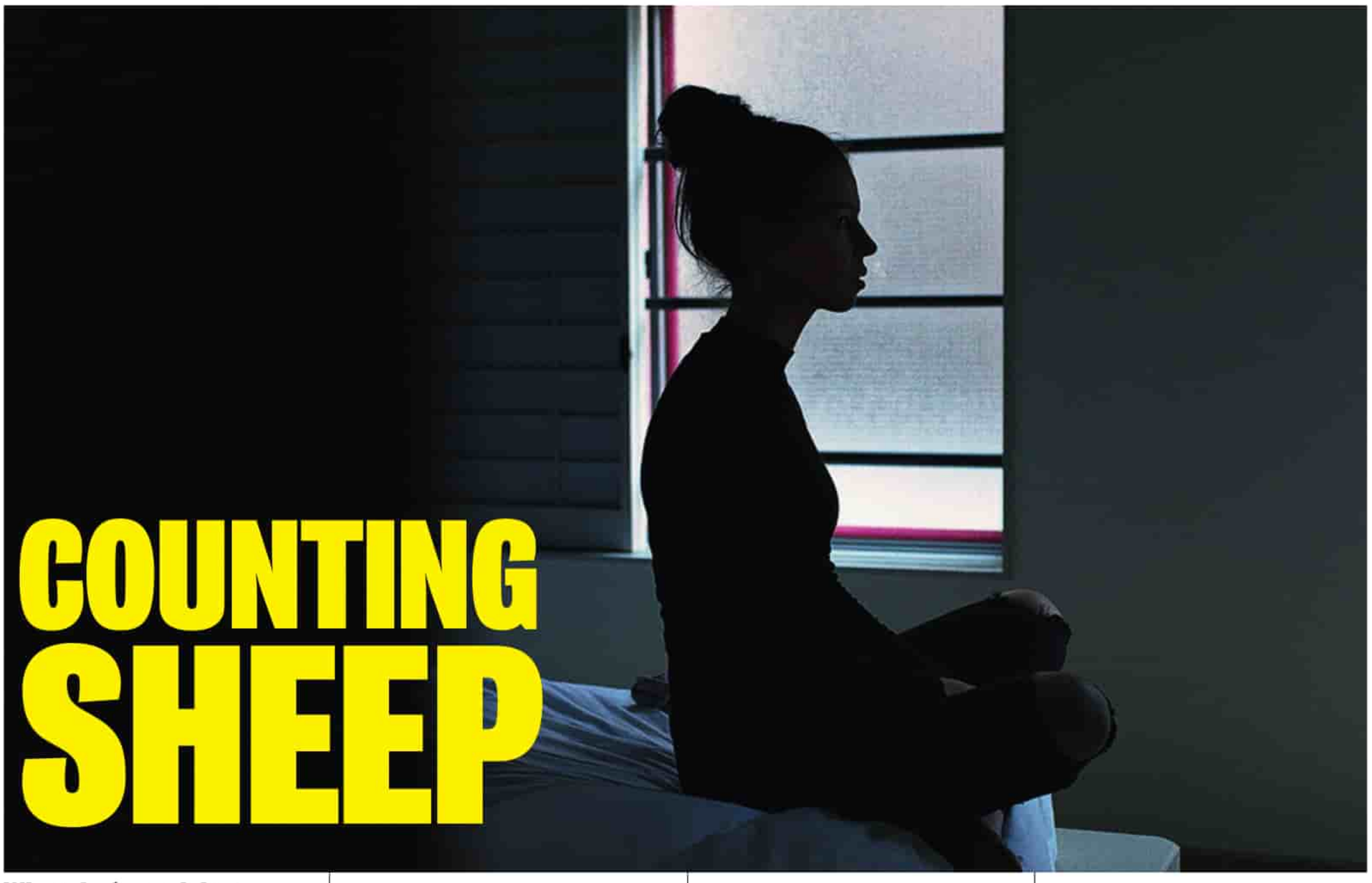


COUNTING SHEEP

What is 'cognitive shuffling', does it really help you get to sleep? Two sleep scientists explain

If you've been on social media lately – perhaps scrolling in the middle of the night, when you know you shouldn't but you just can't sleep – you might have seen those videos promoting a get-to-sleep technique called "cognitive shuffling".

The idea, proponents say, is to engage your mind with random ideas and images via a special formula:

- pick a random word (such as "cake")
- focus on the first letter of the word (in this case, C) and list a bunch of words starting with that letter: cat, carrot, calendar and so on
- visualise each word as you go along
- when you feel ready, move onto the next letter (A) and repeat the process
- continue with each letter of the original word (so, in this case, K and then E) until you feel ready to switch to a new word or until you drift off to sleep.

It's popular on Instagram and TikTok, but does "cognitive shuffling" have any basis in science?

Where did this idea come from?

The cognitive shuffling technique was made famous by Canada-based researcher Luc P Beaudoin more than a decade ago, when he published a paper about how what he called "serial diverse imagining" could help with sleep.

One of Beaudoin's hypothetical examples involved a woman thinking of the word "blanket", then thinking bicycle (and imagining a bicycle), buying (imagining buying shoes), banana (visualising a banana tree) and so on.

Soon, Beaudoin writes, she moves onto the letter L, thinking about her friend Larry, the word "like" (imagining her son hugging his dog). She soon transitions to the letter A, thinking of the word "Amsterdam":

and she might very vaguely imagine the large hand of a sailor gesturing for another order of fries in an Amsterdam pub while a rancid accordion plays in the background.

Sleep soon ensues. The goal, according to Beaudoin, is to think briefly about:

a neutral or pleasant target and frequently [switch] to unrelated targets (normally every 5-15 seconds).

Don't try to relate one word with another or find a link between the words; resist the mind's natural tendency toward sense-making.

While the research into this technique is still in its infancy, the idea is grounded in science. That's because we know from other research good sleepers tend to have different kinds of thoughts in bed to bad sleepers.

People with insomnia are more focused on worries, problems, or noises in the environment, and are often preoccupied with not sleeping.

Good sleepers, on the other hand, typically have dream-like, hallucinatory, less ordered thoughts before nodding off.

Sorting the pro-somnolent wheat from the insomnolent chaff

Cognitive shuffling attempts to mimic the thinking patterns of good sleepers by simulating the dream-like and random thought patterns they generally have before drifting off to sleep.

In particular, Beaudoin's research describes two types of sleep-related thoughts: insomnolent (or anti-sleep) and pro-somnolent (sleep-promoting) thoughts.

Insomnolent thoughts include things such as worrying, planning, rehearsing, and ruminating on perceived problems or failings.

Pro-somnolent thoughts on the other hand involve thoughts that can help you fall asleep, such as dream-like imagery or having a calm, relaxed state of mind.

Cognitive shuffling aims to distract from or interfere with insomnolent thought. It offers a calm, neutral path for your racing mind, and can reduce the stress associated with not sleeping.

Cognitive shuffling also helps tell your brain you are ready for sleep.

In fact, the process of "shuffling" between different thoughts is similar to the way your brain naturally drifts off to sleep. During the transition to sleep, brain activity slows. Your brain starts to generate disconnected images and fleeting scenes, known as hypnagogic hallucinations, without a conscious effort to make sense of them.

By mimicking these scattered, disconnected, and random thought patterns, cognitive shuffling may help you transition from wakefulness to sleep.

And the preliminary research into this is promising. Beaudoin and his team have found serial diverse imagining helps to lower arousal before sleep, improve sleep quality and reduce the effort involved in falling asleep.

However, with only a small number of research studies, more work is needed here.

It didn't work. Now what?

As with every new strategy, however, practise makes perfect. Don't be disheartened if you don't see an improvement straight away; these things take time.

Stay consistent and be kind to yourself.

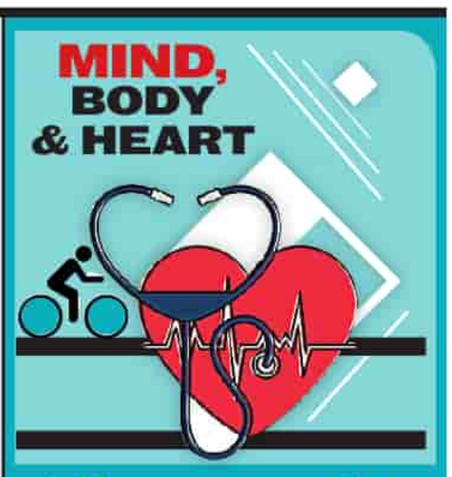
And what works for some won't work for others. Different people benefit from different types of strategies depending on how they relate to and experience stress or stressful thoughts.

Other strategies to help create the right conditions for sleep include:

- keeping a consistent pre-bedtime routine, so your brain can wind down
- watching your thoughts, without judgement, as you lie in bed
- writing down worries or to-do lists earlier in the day so you don't think about them at bedtime.

If, despite all your best efforts, night time thoughts continue to impact your sleep or overall wellbeing, consider seeking professional help from your doctor or a trained sleep specialist.

(By Melinda Jackson and Eleni Kavaliotis, Monash University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Black coffee benefits

Longer life

Drinking a cup or two of black coffee daily could lower risk of death by 14 per cent, but adding milk or sugar could diminish the benefits, according to a new study.

No sugar please

The same link was not observed for coffee with high amounts of added sugar and saturated fat, researchers said.

"The health benefits of coffee might be attributable to its bioactive compounds, but our results suggest that the addition of sugar and saturated fat may reduce the mortality benefits," Fang Fang Zhang, from Tufts University in the US, and senior author of the study published in The Journal of Nutrition, said.

Study

Data nine consecutive cycles of the US' National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) from 1999 to 2018, linked to national death data, was analysed. Coffee consumption was categorised by type -- caffeinated or decaffeinated -- sugar, and saturated fat content, and outcomes of death studied included those from any cause, cancer, and cardiovascular disease.

Number of cups

The authors wrote, "Consuming black coffee and coffee with low levels of added sugar and saturated fat was associated with a 14 per cent lower risk of all-cause mortality, compared with no coffee consumption."

Consuming two to three cups a day could lower the risk of death due to any cause by 17 per cent, whereas taking more than three cups daily was not associated with additional reductions, the researchers said.

Further, the link between coffee and a lower risk of death by cardiovascular disease weakened when more than three cups of coffee were taken a day, they added. **PTI**

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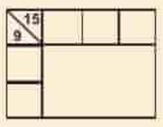
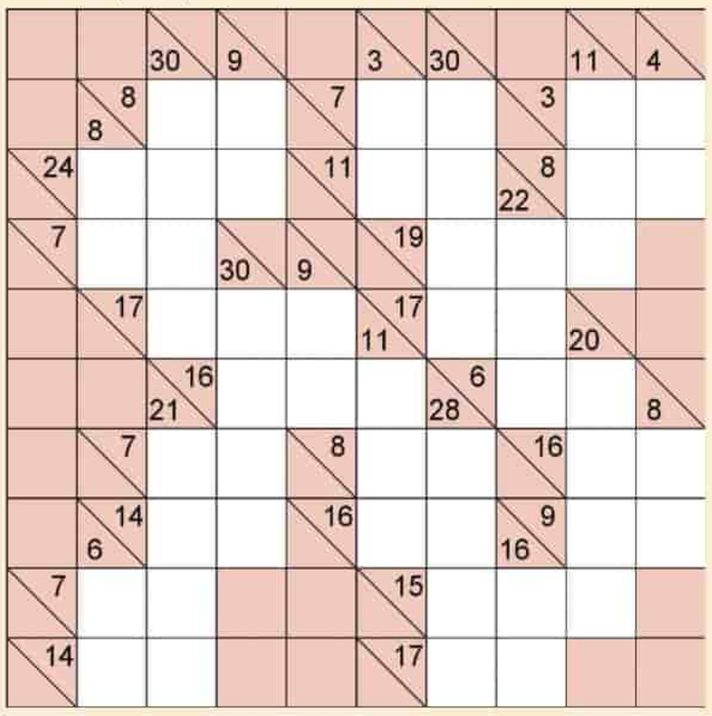
Kakuro

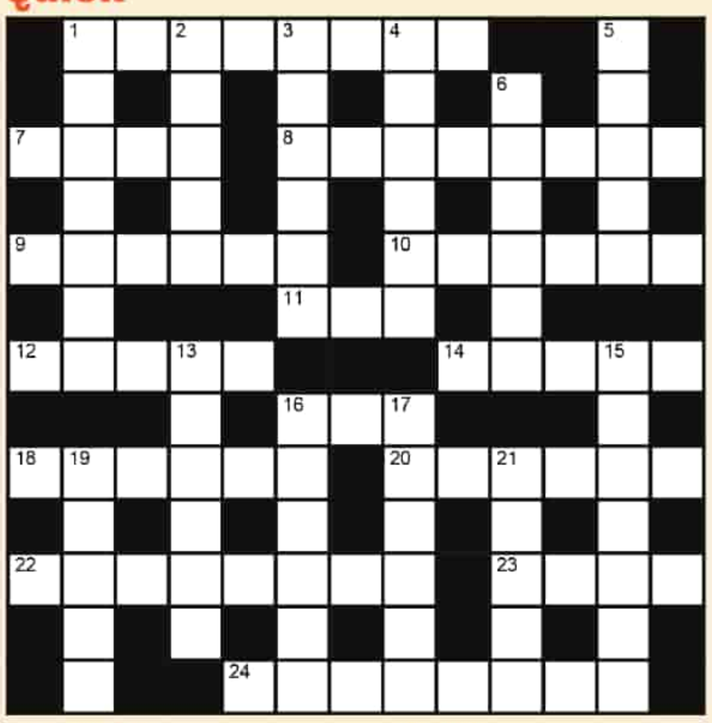
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Wild guess or venture? (4,4)
7 Arabian prince (4)
8 Have __ ____ for : be disinclined to? (2,6)
9 Check or impede (6)
10 The Continent? (6)
11 Affirmative (3)
12 Smooth-barked tree (5)
14 An unforeseen obstacle (1,4)
16 Pair (3)
18 Monarch's son (6)
20 Prejudiced people (6)
22 Leonardo da Vinci's painting (4,4)
23 Freudian terms (4)
24 Scraps (8)

DOWN

1 ___ Garden: Boating Park on Nagwara lake (7)
2 Author ___ C. Chaudhuri (5)
3 Guard (6)
4 Plenty (6)
5 Binding (5)
6 Supplants (6)
13 Old time movie or dance? (6)
15 Novelists (7)
16 Gadget (6)
17 Get hold of (6)
19 Spacious (5)
21 Gather facts bit by bit (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS P

UIB IBKYJ JI QTCQLJ GQJJQA IP CQICRQ. NJ QMLIBAXKQE UIB JI GQ X GQJJQA CQAEIM UIBAEQRP.

Linemaro

You are so beautiful, your birthday should be a national holiday

Mindchow

Pleasures are to be avoided if greater pains be the consequence, and pains to be coveted if they will terminate in greater pleasures

Joke of the day

To estimate the time it takes to do a task, estimate the time you think it should take, multiply by two, and change the unit of measure to the next highest unit. (Example: allocate two days for a one-hour task)

Loop

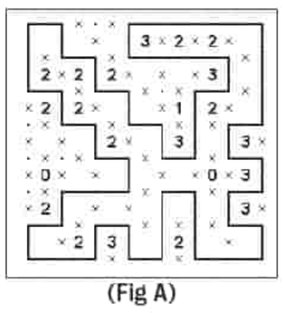
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

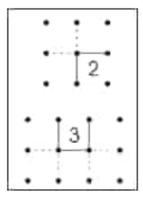
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

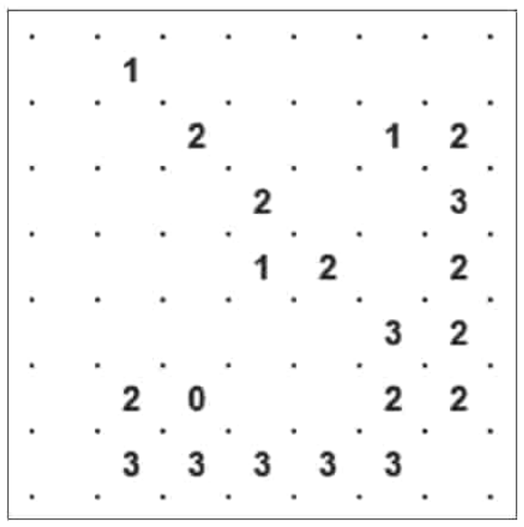
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



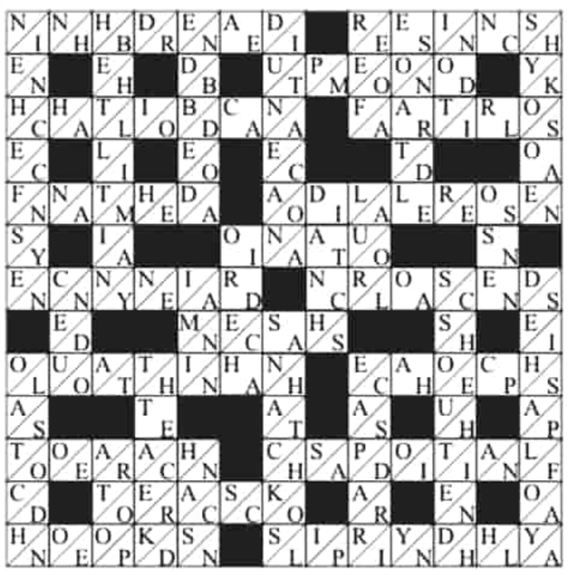
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



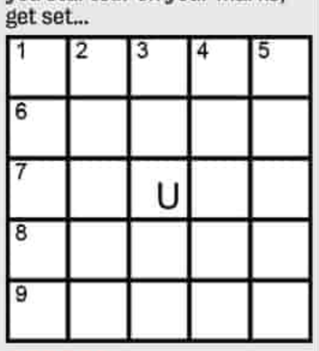
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Dam am; 6 Adobe; 7 Gadus; 8 Less I; 9 Archy

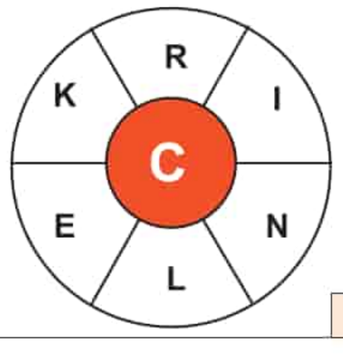
DOWN

1 Gamic; 2 Sabah; 3 Aloud; 4 Dread; 5 My Ess

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			3		5			
		9	2		6	7		
	7	6		9		3	5	
2								8
8	9		7		1		4	5
5								7
	3	4		1		5	2	
		2	6		3	9		
			4		9			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

5 8 9 9

Medium = 2

2 4 5 9

Hard = 3

2 3 6 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

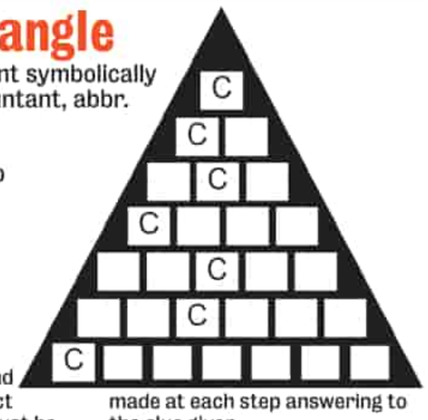
Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Leaf is longer. 3. Building is shorter. 4. Tie is different. 5. Sleeve is shorter. 6. Woman's hair is different.

Riddler

Diophantus was a Greek mathematician who lived in the third century. He was one of the first mathematicians to use algebraic symbols. Most of what is known about Diophantus's life comes from an algebraic riddle from around the early sixth century. The riddle states: Diophantus's youth lasted one sixth of his life. He grew a beard after one twelfth more. After one seventh more of his life, he married. 5 years later, he and his wife had a son. The son lived exactly one half as long as his father, and Diophantus died four years after his son. How many years did Diophantus live?

Alpha triangle

1 Diamond's element symbolically
2 Chartered Accountant, abbr.
3 Expert
4 Coastal feature
5 Strode to and fro
6 Run away
7 Lacking room



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

KAT!!
IF YOU'RE GONNA ASK LEE TO BE YOUR TRAINING GIRLFRIEND, YOU GOTTA DO IT RIGHT. WOO HER WITH CHOCOLATE AND ROSES.
I THINK LEE IS ALLERGIC TO CHOCOLATE.
WOO HER WITH ROSES.

Crankshaft

SO EXACTLY HOW IS THIS PAYING KIDS CASH TO ATTEND SCHOOL SUPPOSED TO WORK ANYWAY?
I DON'T KNOW... THE ARTICLE DOESN'T PROVIDE ANY DETAILS.
I PREFER CASH IN SMALL BILLS.
CAN YOU JUST USE APPLE PAY?
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel relief after navigating a difficult situation. Your inner strength and energy will support you in making bold decisions, especially in managing or expanding the family business. Helping those in need may boost your social reputation. Students will gain clarity in making career-related decisions.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Health concerns may make you feel uneasy or impatient today. It's important to manage your temper and avoid emotional spending on unnecessary items, as it could affect your savings. Couples are advised to steer clear of pointless arguments, which could lead to misunderstandings or even separation.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may connect with an influential person who can significantly aid your professional progress. This could strengthen your network. You're likely to introduce new ideas in your business or work, and may plan increased investment—potentially leading to financial gains soon. Socially, expect to be busy with family gatherings.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your mother's health may show improvement today. You'll feel content at work and may receive recognition for your efforts. Social respect is likely to increase. However, mental fatigue due to workload might prevent you from attending a family event.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You'll feel satisfied with your professional progress. A short work-related trip could be on the agenda. Visiting a religious or spiritual place may bring you peace of mind. Guidance from mentors or elders will bring clarity regarding your goals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel physically or mentally drained. Health issues could trouble you, and it's wise to avoid new investments or business ventures for now. Financial losses are possible if caution isn't exercised. Focus on rest and recovery.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You'll experience domestic harmony and happiness today. A meeting with an influential person could offer opportunities at work. You are likely to perform well in your job, possibly earning a promotion or reward. Legal or property disputes within the family may start to resolve.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Good health and sharp focus will help you perform exceptionally well at work. Your boss may recognise your efforts and assign you important responsibilities. Legal matters may turn in your favour. You'll also gain control over competitors and adversaries.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is ideal for acquiring new knowledge and valuing intellectual assets. Keeping your temper in check will help you stay productive and maintain harmony. A steady income may bring comfort. However, be cautious with new investments. Spending on a loved one is likely. Romantic relationships will flourish.

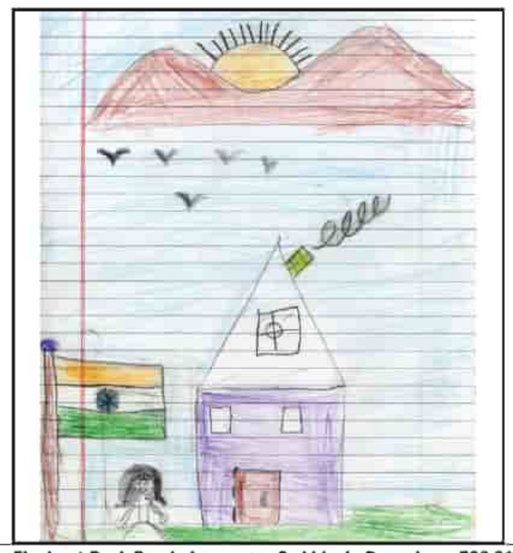
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel detached or unsatisfied, leading to confusion about your responsibilities. Avoid excessive daydreaming or over-planning—focus instead on practical steps to meet deadlines. Take care of your parents' needs. If you're considering relocating, it's better to delay the move for a few days.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
This is a productive and fulfilling day. Your dedication will yield success in both your personal and professional life. Your concentration levels are high, allowing you to complete tasks on time, boosting your confidence. A short work-related trip may be beneficial for networking and future opportunities.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Domestic matters may keep you occupied. You might spend on decorative or household items, but be cautious with unnecessary expenses, as they may attract negative energy. It's also advised to speak kindly and avoid harsh words in interactions with others.

KIDZONE

Akhilesh, Bengaluru



Naryan, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER The riddle, the "facts" of which may or may not be true, results in the following equation: x/6 + x/12 + x/7 + 5 + x/2 + 4 = x
where x is Diophantus's age at the time of his death. Therefore, Diophantus lived exactly 84 years.

QUOTE UNCODE
You ought to expect better of people. It encourages you to be a better person yourself.

BULL'S EYE
clerk, clink, nick, GLINKER, lice, lick, neck, nice, nicer, nickel, relic

FAST FIVE

M	A	D	A	M
A	B	O	D	E
G	A	U	D	S
I	S	L	E	S
C	H	A	R	Y

STRIKE OUT

I	N	B	R	E	E	D		R	E	I	C	H		
N		E		B		U	P	E	N	D		Y		
C	A	L	I	B	A	N		F	A	I	L	S		
E		L		E		C		T		O				
N	A	M	E	D		A	I	L	E	R	O	N		
S		A		I	N	T	O			S				
E	N	N	E	A	D		C	L	O	S	E	D		
	E		M	E	S	H			H		I			
L	O	T	H	I	A	N		C	H	O	P	S		
A		E		A		U		P						
T	O	R	A	H		C	A	P	I	T	A	L		
C		T	R	A	C	K		R		E		A		
H	O	O	D	S		S	P	I	N	D	L	Y		

QUICK

														S
					R	E	M	N	A	N	T	S		R
						I		C		A		R		
			N											
M			O	N	A	L	I	S		E	G	O	S	
O					T			L		H				
P	R	I	N	C	E		B	I	G	O	T	S		
	A					D	U	O				U		
B	I	R	C	H				A	S	N	A	G		
N						Y	E	S		P				
H	I	N	D	E	R		E	U	R	O	P	E		
B		A		T		L		U		A				
E	M	I	R		N	O	D	E	S	I	R	E		
U		I		E		O		U		T				
L	O	N	G	S	H	O	T			S				

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Working from top to bottom, reading each pair of numbers as a 2 digit value, values represent the reverse alphabetical value of letters of the alphabet, starting with A, written with 3 straight lines only

SOLVE IN 1M
33²-33/0=1089-infinity
Undefined

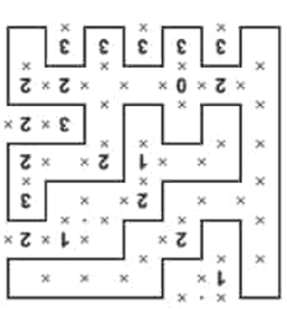
SUDOKU

1	2	8	3	7	5	4	6	9
3	5	9	2	4	6	7	8	1
4	7	6	1	9	8	3	5	2
2	6	7	5	3	4	1	9	8
8	9	3	7	6	1	2	4	5
5	4	1	9	8	2	6	3	7
9	3	4	8	1	7	5	2	6
7	8	2	6	5	3	9	1	4
6	1	5	4	2	9	8	7	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, CA, Ace, Cape, Paced, Decamp, Cramped.

GO FIGURE
8 + 5 + 9 - 9 = 13
Easy
4 - 9 + 2 + 5 = 2
Medium
8 - 6 + 3 - 2 = 3
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO

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Backlash — Actress Sarah Jessica Parker spoke about the backlash her 'Sex and the City' character Carrie Bradshaw received saying the reaction which female characters recieve is much more than the most despicable male characters in film and TV

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Deadly Lovers trailer out

The trailer of the movie Deadly Lovers was unveiled at Chamundeshwari Studios on Monday. Govindaraj, who bankrolled Huliya, was the chief guest at the function.

Nagendra has not only directed the movie Deadly Lovers but also bankrolled it under the Anagha Enterprises banner. Akhil Kumar and Thanu Prasad are the lead pair. Lahari Velu, who plays at home minister in the film, was supposed to contest in the State Assembly elections from Chamarajpet against Congress candidate Zameer Ahmed Khan but

the BJP leadership finally zeroed in on former cop Bhaskar Rao. Director Nagendra said he was very happy with Lahari Velu's acting skills.

He said he learnt the nuances of direction from his mentor and teacher S Umesh. "The movie is about two lovers who enter the underworld in Bengaluru. They teach a lesson to the villain and escape with the money. The Home Minister comes to know about it and assigns an Assistant Commissioner of Police to investigate the case. The climax of the movie is why the lovers became deadly and what was their background," he said.

The movie is scheduled for screening at 50 to 60 screens across the state shortly.

Bhaskar Shetty injured

The team of Kannada movie Phoenix were in a shock when actor Bhaskar Shetty was injured during the shooting of an action scene. The movie's shooting is in progress at Vaderahalli near Bengaluru. Shetty received minor burn injuries during the shooting.

"I am playing a police inspector in the movie. I was doing a chase sequence where I try to nab rowdies. The rowdies, in a bid to escape from me, throw petrol bombs at me. One of the petrol bombs fell on my leg but I was lucky to escape with minor injuries. The team members rushed me to a nearby hospital. I thank them for their love and care. I also thank director-cum-producer Om Prakash Rao for providing me with all facilities. Doctors have advised me to rest for a few days," said Shetty.

Om Prakash Rao is bankrolling the movie under the Sri Guru Chitralaya banner. It is his 49th film as the director.

It is said the movie has a woman-centric theme and is an action thriller. Nimita Ratnakar, Shilpa Shetty, and Krithika Lobo are playing prominent roles in the movie. Cockroach Sudhi and Prasanna play the villains. Ravi Varma is the stunt choreographer. A well-known music director is expected to join the team soon.

Special wish

As Rashmika Mandanna's much-discussed drama, "Kuberaa" gears up to release on June 20, her rumored beau Vijay Deverakonda used social media to wish the entire team of the crime thriller. Taking to his X timeline, VD penned, "Wishing #Kuberaa all the very best as it heads to the big screen." Lauding the maker Sekhar Kammula, the 'Arjun Reddy' actor said, "@sekharkammula sir will always be a special name in my journey — he gave many actors like me hope."

The actor and director duo worked together in the coming-of-age drama "Life Is Beautiful" back in 2012.

Vijay also expressed his excitement to see Dhanush, Rashmika, and Nagarjuna coming together for the highly-anticipated flick.

"To see him now telling a story on this scale, with a cast filled with personal favourites like @dhanushkraja, @iamnagarjuna sir, @iamRashmika — has me excited :) Sending all my love and best wishes to the entire team. Can't wait to watch it in theatres!", he concluded. —IANS

Return to her calling

After 7-year break, Chitrangda is ready to continue her work

Chitrangda Singh began her career with the film 'Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi'. She gained recognition through movies like 'Yeh Saali Zindagi', 'Desi Boyz', 'I', 'Me Aur Main', 'Baazaar', 'Bob Biswas', and 'Gaslight'. Expanding her role in the industry, she produced 'Soorma'. After a seven-year hiatus following her son's birth, she made a notable return with appearances in the series 'Modern Love Mumbai' and 'Khakee: The Bengal Chapter'.

In an interview with Bollywood Bubbles, Chitrangda explained that she does not view her return to work as a comeback because she hasn't taken on projects consecutively. She noted that people might perceive her absence since they are accustomed to seeing actors continuously working. Although she has done relatively few projects at times, she emphasized that she has always been present in the industry and never truly disappeared. She mentioned having taken one long break and a shorter one lasting about a year and a half, but otherwise has been active over the years. Singh believes there is no need to label her return as a comeback—she is simply continuing her work.

She acknowledged that seven years is a significant amount of time and explained that since she always saw herself as an actor, she questioned what difference it would make to take a break. Choosing to prioritise her family life, she made the decision to step away from acting. At that young age, she felt it would have been difficult to manage career and family simultaneously. Although she is unsure how her fans felt about her absence, she admitted that she missed acting, the cinema, and being in front of the camera. —ETimes

Waiting for her next project

Versatile actress Aditi Rao Hydari received much love for her stunning performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Heeramandi,' but the actress recently revealed that she is still waiting for work. Aditi revealed that despite the immense praise she received for her performance in 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar,' it hasn't translated into new film or show offers. In a chat with YouTuber and host Lilly Singh, Aditi admitted she is still waiting to sign her next project. In the conversation, Aditi agreed to the fact that when women-led projects succeed, they're still treated as anomalies in the industry.

"It is, yes. You are absolutely correct." She elaborated that while 'Heeramandi' brought her a lot of appreciation, she hasn't yet locked her next film or series. "I got so much love, so much appreciation... so much everything. "Have I signed my next show or film? No. I haven't. "I'm still waiting," she said.

When asked if the success of Heeramandi would make it easier to create such large-scale, women-focused shows, Aditi said, "No, I don't think so. I hope so." —ETimes